
MARCH 4, 1806.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole
House, on Monday next.

A Bill,

Imposing a duty on all slaves imported into the United States.

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1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That after
3 due notice of this act at the several custom-houses, a duty of ten
4 dollars shall be levied and collected on the importation of every
5 Negro, Indian, Moor, Mulatto and Mustizo, who shall be imported
6 from any foreign country or place into the United States, as a slave
7 for life or term of years; which duty, in every case of such im-
8 portation, shall, before a permit shall be granted for landing such
9 slave, be paid, or, at the option of the importer or importers, secured
10 to be paid within three months. *Provided always,* that the said
11 duty shall not be imposed on any slave, returning to the United

12 States, who shall have previously resided therein for the space of
 13 six months.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the
 2 master or commander of any ship or vessel, on board of which
 3 there shall be any slave as aforesaid, to have on board, and exhibit
 4 a manifest of the same, and to make report thereof, and to pay
 5 or secure the duty as aforesaid, under the like regulations as are by
 6 law established with respect to the collection of duties on goods,
 7 wares and merchandise imported into the United States; and such
 8 manifest shall contain a just and particular account of all slaves
 9 so on board, stating their sex, and whether minors or adults, and
 10 the number of each description. And the proper officers of the
 11 department of the treasury shall prescribe the form of such docu-
 12 ments and papers as may be requisite for the due execution of
 13 this act.

1 Sec 3. *And be it further enacted,* That if any slave shall be land-
 2 ed within the United States from any ship or vessel, contrary to
 3 the true intent and meaning of this act, before the duty aforesaid
 4 shall be paid, or secured as aforesaid, the master or commander of
 5 such ship or vessel shall forfeit and pay, for every slave so landed,
 6 the sum of dollars; and the ship or vessel importing
 7 such slave, together with her tackle and furniture, or the value
 8 thereof, shall be forfeited to the United States; and whoever shall
 9 purchase or receive from the owner, in whole or in part, of such
 10 ship or vessel or her cargo, from the agent or consignee thereof, or

11 from the master or commander of such ship or vessel, any slave
12 imported as aforesaid, before the duty imposed by this act shall be
13 paid or secured as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay, for every such
14 slave, the sum of dollars; which penalties and for-
15 feitures shall be recovered and disposed of in the manner pre-
16 scribed by the act intituled " An act to regulate the collection of
17 duties on imports and tonnage".

1 Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act con-
2 tained shall be construed to counteract the law of any state prohi-
3 biting the importation of slaves.